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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
24 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 4:00 PM EST)

1. After his meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil this morning, the US Ambassador in Ankara concluded that "the fuse today is burning very short."

2. Special Envoy Vance reports a good conversation with Greek Foreign Minister Pipinelis, and believes he will have an interesting proposition to present the Turks tomorrow morning. He plans to arrive in Ankara at 5:00 am (9:00 PM EST). The US Ambassador in Ankara has transmitted the encouraging message from Special Envoy Vance to Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Turkman. His immediate remark was "That is good!" The US Ambassador requested that the message be given to Foreign Minister Caglayangil, and added that he was counting on nothing happening tonight.

3. The US Embassy in Ankara reports that war fever continues to run high in the Turkish press. The press fears that diplomatic talks will cause Turkey to lose the initiative, and the man in the street suspects that delays favor the Greeks.

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6. In Athens, the population remains calm, with the press remaining relatively restrained. The Greek people reportedly find the suggestion that Greek illegal troops be withdrawn from Cyprus an unpalatable one. The police and gendarmerie have been operating under normal conditions and have apparently received no special instructions.

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8. NATO Secretary General Brosio chaired a special NATO meeting today in Brussels and also met with both the Greek and Turkish representatives there. Brosio had planned to fly to Athens tonight, but the Greek NATO representative informed him today that Athens prefers that he delay his arrival until after talks in Athens with Special Envoy Vance have been concluded. The US Mission in Brussels hopes that the Greeks can be persuaded to modify this request, thus giving Brosio maximum flexibility in his good offices role.

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9. Ambassador Belcher's urgings that the Cypriot Government take some initiative in attempts to solve the situation have met with no results. In a conversation with the President of the Cypriot Parliament this morning, Belcher stressed that the Government of Cyprus would find it easier than would the Greeks to take an initiative on the withdrawal question. President Makarios' first official statement since the crisis began, however, was an innocuous protestation that "we hate war" and "we love peace," and gave no indication that the Cyprus government is prepared to make any concrete gesture towards averting a confrontation.

10. Meanwhile, press statements indicate that the Cypriot representative at the UN is considering requesting an emergency meeting of the Security Council. In a letter from the Cypriot representative to the Security Council president made public today, Cyprus charged that Turkish violations of Cypriot air space have intensified despite UN efforts to damp down the current tension, claiming that the Turks are deliberately undermining U Thant's peace efforts.

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Directorate of Intelligence
24 November 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Cyprus Situation
(As of 12:00 Noon EST)

1. The Turkish position appears to be hardening still further. Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil implied to the US Ambassador this morning that war was almost inevitable. While expressing his appreciation for US efforts to solve the crisis through diplomacy, the Foreign Minister said that his government must take action or face far graver consequences internally. If he had time, Caglayangil said, he could perhaps negotiate the withdrawal of Greek troops, but he had no more time.

2. In view of the serious tone of the US Ambassador's conversations with Caglayangil, Special Envoy Vance has decided to postpone his visit to Nicosia and return to Ankara directly from Athens. He has requested an appointment with the Turkish Foreign Minister tomorrow morning.

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4. USCINCEUR reports increased activity at Erhac airfield northeast of Iskenderun. Unconfirmed rumors indicate a "probable launch of a strike force in the next 24 hours."

5. A Turkish Embassy official in Nicosia called at the US Embassy this morning, where he requested and received the coordinates of US installations on Cyprus. He said that they had plenty of aerial photographs but wanted to be absolutely certain, and added that the US firm Cyprus Mines need have no worries because of its proximity to a Turkish enclave in Lefka. Turkish military overflights of Cyprus are continuing.

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8. More than 697 Americans and Canadians have been evacuated from Cyprus to Beirut.

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9. NATO Secretary General Brosio was apparently still in Brussels this morning despite acceptance by both Greece and Turkey of his offer of good offices. The US Mission to NATO feels that Brosio is in a unique position to defuse the situation, in that the Greeks could be responsive to him without appearing to yield to Turkish "provocation" and because his intervention in a NATO role would be less offensive to the Turks than external national pressures. The US Mission hopes that Brosio might be able to break the present impasse by leaning on the central argument that Greece and Turkey now have the capacity to maintain or destroy the critical southern flank of the whole NATO institution.

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